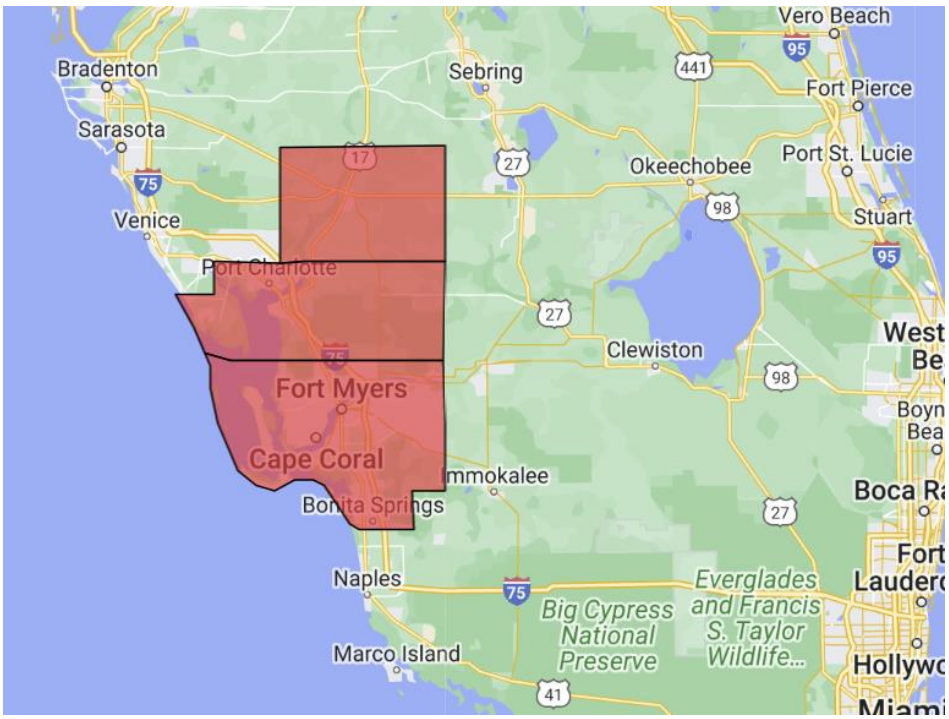
Communications Status Report for Areas Impacted by Hurricane Ian October 8, 2022

The following is a report on the status of communications services in geographic areas impacted by Hurricane Ian as of October 8, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. EDT. This report incorporates network outage data submitted by communications providers to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS). Note that the operational status of communications services during an event may evolve rapidly, and this report represents a snapshot in time.

The following counties in Florida are in the current geographic area that is part of DIRS (the "disaster area") for today's report.

The area of interest for this activation includes the following counties in Florida.

Florida: Charlotte, DeSoto, Lee.



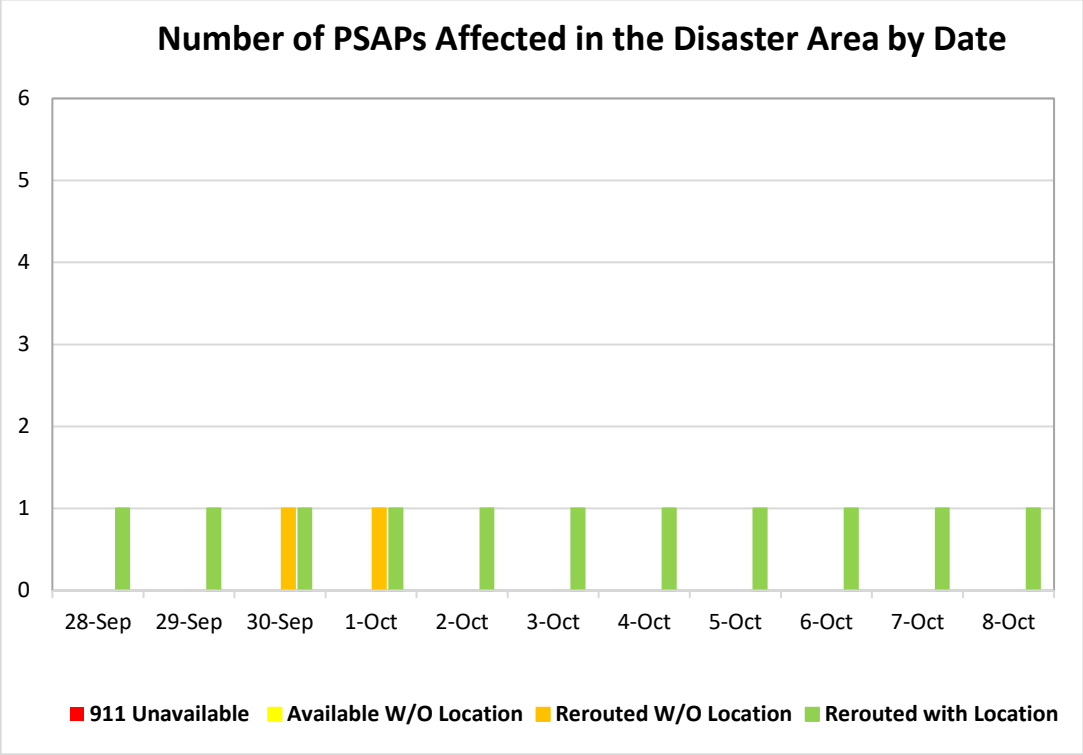
911 Services

The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) learns the status of each Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) through the filings of 911 Service Providers in DIRS, reporting to the FCC's Public Safety Support Center, coordination with state 911 Administrators, and, if necessary, direct contact with individual PSAPs.

Florida:

Sanibel Police Department Headquarters has been rerouted to another PSAP with location information.[1]

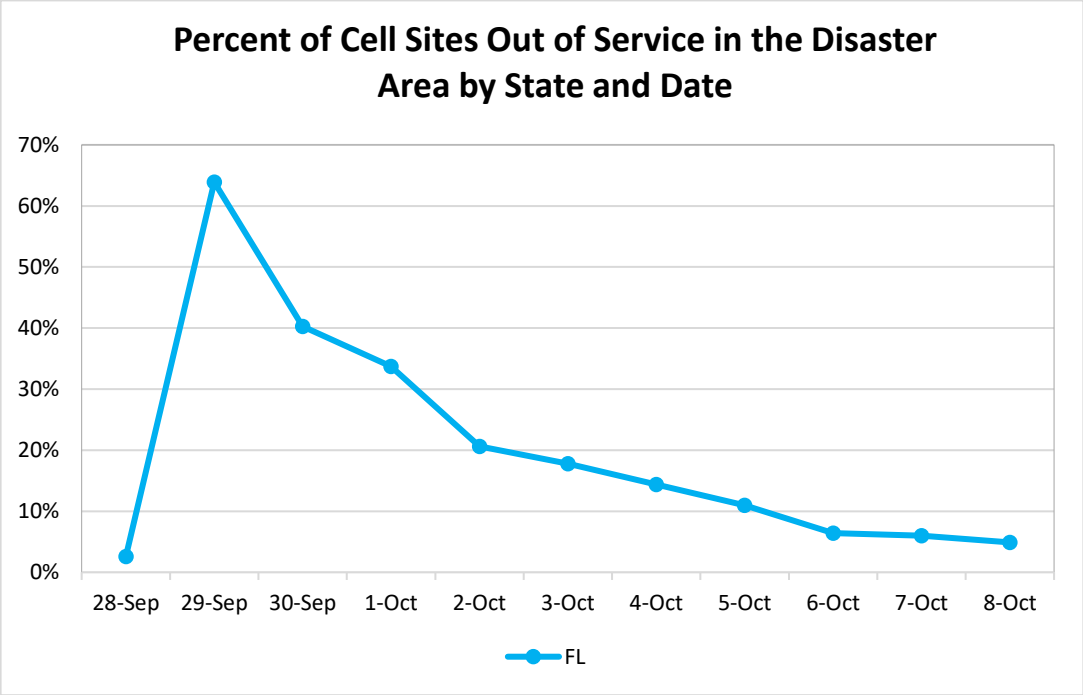
The following chart shows the trend in the effects on PSAPs since the storm's landfall:



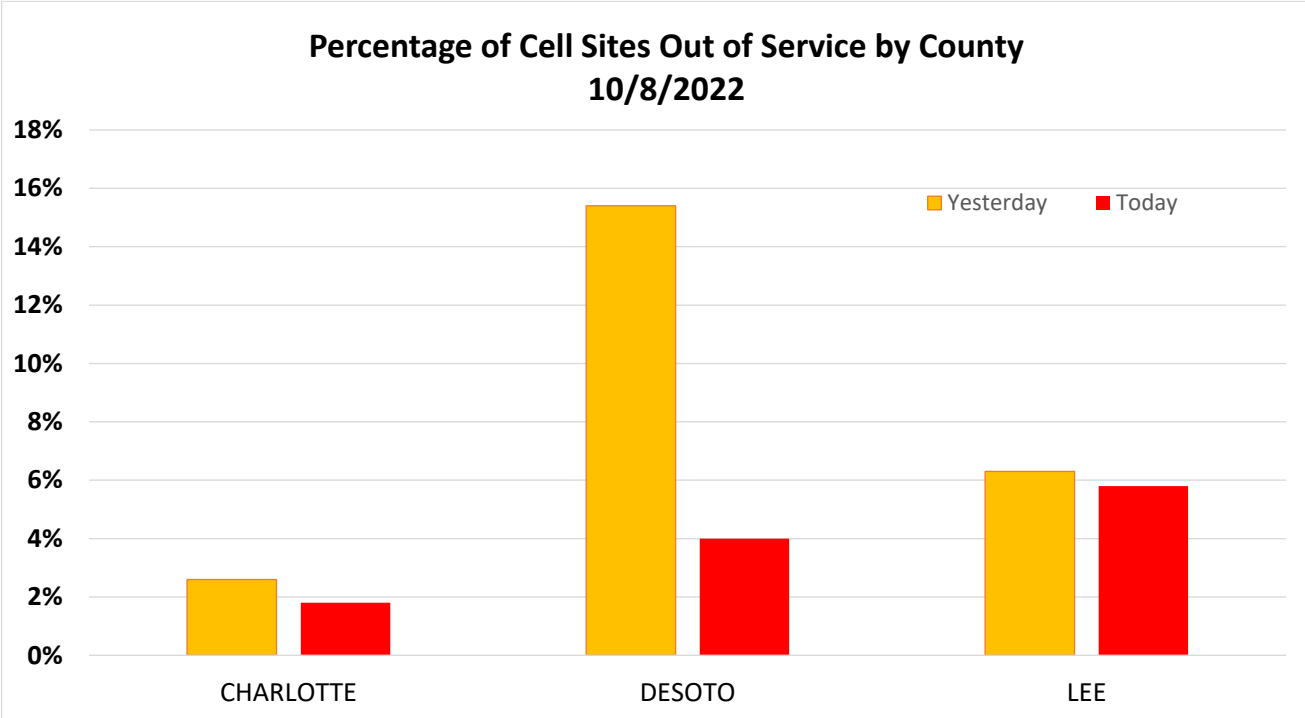
Wireless Services

The following section describes the status of wireless communications services in the disaster area as reported in DIRS. The chart below shows trends:

[1] Sanibel Police Department PSAP is fully functional, but operating from its alternate location as annotated in its contingency planning.



The current status of wireless communications services by county is shown by the following chart.



The following table provides cell sites out of service by county. 4.9% of the cell sites in the affected area are out of service. The information shown was provided by communications carriers providing services in Florida.

Florida

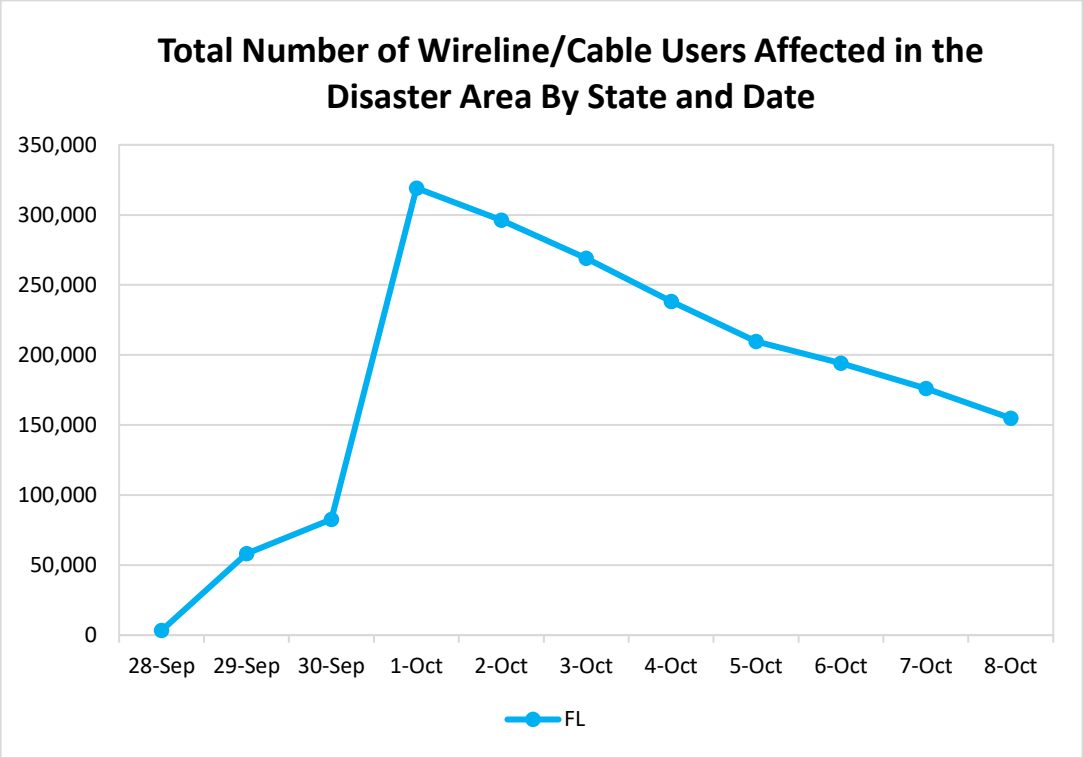
State	Affected Counties	Cell Sites Served	Cell Sites Out	Percent Out	Cell Sites Out Due to Damage	Cell Sites Out Due to Transport	Cell Sites Out Due to Power	Cell Sites Up but On Back-up Power
FL	CHARLOTTE	114	2	1.8%	0	2	0	7
FL	DESOTO	25	1	4.0%	1	0	0	1
FL	LEE	394	23	5.8%	4	10	9	20
TOTAL		**533**	**26**	**4.9%**	**5**	**12**	**9**	**28**

The number of cell site outages in a specific area does not necessarily correspond to the availability of wireless service to consumers in that area. *See* Improving the Resiliency of Mobile Wireless Communications Networks, Order, 31 FCC Rcd 13745, para. 10 (2016) (recognizing the difficulties in accurately depicting the ongoing status of a wireless provider's service during emergencies). Wireless networks are often designed with numerous, overlapping cell sites that provide maximum capacity and continuity of service even when an individual site is inoperable. In addition, wireless providers frequently use temporary facilities, such as cells-on-wheels (also known as COWs), increase power at operational sites, initiate roaming agreements, or take other actions to maintain service to affected consumers during emergencies or other events that result in cell site outages.

Cable Systems and Wireline (Combined)

Cable and wireline companies reported 154,941 subscribers out of service the disaster area; this may include the loss of telephone, television, and/or Internet services.

The following chart illustrates the trends in the number of subscribers out of service in the disaster area:



Broadcast:

Television stations status:

- There are no TV stations reported as being out of service.

FM Radio stations status:

- 3 FM stations are reported as being out of service.

AM Radio stations status:

- There are no AM stations reported as being out of service.

Special Temporary Authority (STA)/Waivers/Extensions

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may grant Special Temporary Authority (STA) to permit immediate or temporary operation of certain radio facilities during emergencies or other urgent conditions, as well as waivers to support emergency communications and service restoration.

- Wireless Telecommunications Bureau grants the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) an emergency request for a temporary waiver of Section 97.307(f) of the Commission's Rules
- Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau extend licensing and regulatory deadlines for 30 days following President Biden's declaration of emergency for the State of Florida

- Wireless Telecommunications Bureau grants an emergency waiver of sections 96.67(c)(2) and (3) of the Commission's rules governing the Citizen's Broadband Radio Service to Federated Wireless, CommScope, Inc., and Google LLC
- Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Extend Filing and Regulatory Deadlines in Additional Areas (SC and GA) Affected by Hurricane Ian
- Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau issue a verbal waiver for Florida public safety officials to use 700 - 800 MHz interoperability channels
- International Bureau grants verbal special Temporary Authority (STA) for two weeks to repair of antennas and other facilities. The purpose of this STA is to allow the provider to operate with facilities that are not covered by their current authorization while they are fixing facilities caused by Hurricane IAN
- Due to damage associated with Hurricane Ian caused to broadcasters in Florida and South Carolina, for these stations, the Media Bureau extends the October 11, 2022 deadline for placing material covering the previous calendar quarter in their public inspection file to December 12, 2022
- Wireless Telecommunications Bureau issues multiple STAs to Verizon and T-Mobile in Florida to restore communications in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian